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USSR

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REISSUEACCOUNT OF A DISCUSSION WITH "ALBERT"
CONCERNING "ROBERT'S" GROUP.

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

Nos.: 1388 - 1389

1 Oct 1944

[Two-part message complete]

[Part I] To VIKTOR[i].

Your telegram no. 4012^a[i]. ~~ALBERT~~
ALBERT[i] has told me that his original proposal
about new cover [PRIKRYTIE] holds good and that in
the near future he will send us a [C% special] note
[C% on this subject]. In order to invest wisely the
sum allotted by you ALBERT has to think out a number
of details which will take him some time yet.

Your no. 4270^a].

[B% i.] On the question of the possibility
of splitting ROBERT's[iv] group into smaller units
ALBERT gave the following answer:

KOL'TSOV's[v] meeting with [C% RICHARD
[RICHARD]][vi] and KOL'TSOV's attempt to obtain
answers to a number of questions of an international.

[Continued overleaf]

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character produced an unfavourable impression on ROBERT. ROBERT was surprised at our decision to have recourse to the aid of a special man for raising with [C] RICHARD questions on which ROBERT [C] himself as leader of the group, in his own words, is working ceaselessly. Why did we decide to ask [D] RICHARD

[26 groups unrecoverable]

in other [C] words] this step of ours ROBERT took as a mark of insufficient confidence in his business abilities. It is true he later expressed regret at having reacted touchily [BOLEZNENNO] [6 groups unrecovered] in ALBERT's opinion shows that ROBERT is jealous about "encroachments

[16 groups unrecovered]

not to agree to our measures calculated to "by-pass" ROBERT. ALBERT is convinced that an attempt to "remove" members of the group, however circumspectly, will be received [1 group unrecovered] unfavourably by ROBERT. I [D] said that] in that case [he][a] could in the meantime have a chat with ROBERT about the possibility of breaking the group into two or three sub-groups for greater secrecy and more effective organisation of the work, leaving however the overall direction in ROBERT's hands.

[Part II]

ALBERT [C] warned me] that for the time being the question can only be put in this form and that he will discuss it with ROBERT when occasion offers. At the same time he observed that his relations with ROBERT were very good and that the latter would consent to a meeting between ALBERT himself or EL[vii] and any member of the group. Possibly, [in][a] ROBERT's tendency not to "relinquish" anyone [,][a] SOUND's [ZVUK][viii] education is making itself felt.

2. Your points 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 I have passed on to ALBERT in detail.

3. ALBERT promised to write specially on your point 1. For the time being he told me the following:

ROBERT is not restricting himself to receiving material from the probationers [STAZhERY], but is giving them tasks in consultation with ALBERT. The instruction not to impersonalise [C] the group's] materials will be borne in mind (it is already being carried out). PILOT[ix] is bringing ROBERT's wife (he is not married himself) into the processing [OBRABOTKA] of materials. She is not only in the know about her husband's work, but actively helps him in the processing.

There is no information about the KHATK's[x] enquiry being finished. ROBERT is no less interested in a favourable outcome than we are and is trying to keep

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abreast of developments. If they have not dismissed him from his present work, it means that there is no concrete information about his work for us but only suspicions connected with his FELLOW-COUNTRYMANLY[xi] [D's membership]. His wife is not free from [D's suspicion]

[23 groups unrecoverable]

[D questions] raised in your letter no. 3 and which have in the meantime remained unanswered we will remind ALBERT.

The materials on the conspiracy and the competitors[xii] of the ISLAND [OSTROV][xiii], as it turns out, have to be obtained through IZRA[xiv] and so I am passing the task on to VADIM[xv].

No. 786
1 October

MAY [MAJ][xvi]

T.N.: [a] ~~Not available~~
~~Inserted by the translator.~~

Comments: [i] VIKTOR: ~~probably~~ Lt.-General P.M. FITIN.

[ii] ~~Not available.~~

[iii] ALBERT: ~~not identified.~~ i.e. ALBERT, probably Iskhate Abdolovich AKHMEROV.

[iv] ROBERT: Nathan Gregory SILVERMASTER.

[v] KOL'TSOV: not identified.

[vi] RICHARD: ~~possibly~~ Harry Dexter WHITE.

[vii] EL': not identified.

[viii] ZVUK: Jacob GOLOS. According to Elizabeth BENTLEY, in her book "Out of Bondage", GOLOS was opposed to the Russian policy of assuming direct control of agents.

[ix] PILOT: possibly William Ludwig ULLMAN.

[x] KHATA: the F.B.I.

[xi] ZEMLYACHESKIY - i.e. the Communist Party. This is an adjective derived from the noun ZEMLYAK, which is used as a cover-name for a member of the Communist Party.

[xii] KONKURENTY - i.e. members of a non-Soviet intelligence organisation.

[xiii] OSTROV: Great Britain.

[xiv] IZRA: not identified.

[xv] VADIM: Anatolij Borisovich GROMOV, M.G.B. resident in WASHINGTON, D.C.

[xvi] MAJ: Pavel Ivanovich FEDOSIMOV

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